

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 1, with the following paragraph:

"Variant product - also referred at times as the "variant protein" or "variant polypeptide" - is an amino acid sequence encoded by the variant nucleic acid sequence which is a naturally occurring mRNA sequence obtained as a result of alternative splicing. The amino acid sequence may be a peptide, a protein, as well as peptides or proteins having *chemically modified* amino acids (see below) such as a glycopeptide or glycoprotein. The term also includes *homologues* (see below) of said sequences in which one or more amino acids has been added, deleted, *substituted* (see below) or *chemically modified* (see below) as well as *fragments* (see below) of this sequence having at least 10 amino acids. More specifically, it concerns the amino acid sequences present in the above CD-ROM. Each amino acid ~~sequences~~sequence has the same NV_... number as the nucleic acid sequence from which it was coded. The directory name of the file is the functional family name. The nucleic sequences file name is (family-name)_for_patent; and the protein sequences file is (family-name)_pep_patent. They are also denoted NV_1 to NV-48611, each protein having the same NV_... number as the nucleic acid sequence from which it was coded. The SEQ ID NOs of

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the amino acid sequences run consecutively, starting from SEQ ID
NO:48612 (equivalent to protein variant number NV 1) to SEQ ID
NO:97222 (equivalent to protein variant number NV 48611).